

I am absolutely appalled at the current proposals before the FCC to further degrade the freedom and quality of journalism in the U.S. by relaxing the existing rules on cross-ownership of newspapers, TV, cable, and radio, as well as allow increases in the amount of ownership by the same corporate entities in local markets. It is shameful that this is even up for consideration, when the journalistic diversity, public right to know, and service of public interest so vital for a healthy democracy are already degraded to the point that it is hard to determine if we even have a free press anymore. What the American public is currently being served is a homogenous, dumbed-down, non-intrusive, entertainment pablum that serves no one but the corporations' bottom lines and the political parties who benefit from their generous contributions. This is no way to run a democracy, folks-- this is setting up an oligarchy of media giants who will decide what the people need to know and hear about based on how many dollars they can bring in. This is coming across as a diatribe, because I am very upset that there has been very little public notice about this issue and it seems like it's a "done deal" with little public comment. It is quite striking and yet not surprising that the major media networks and news organizations have not publicized this issue at all. This makes my point exactly-- it is not in their interest that it be publicized. So, please, in the name of the founders of this American democracy and all who have given their lives to defend it, do NOT relax these minimal rules. Thank you.